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Recent Successes and Future Visions of the International GPS Service

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The International GPS Service has enjoyed nearly six years as a service of the IAG supporting geodetic and geophysical research activities through GPS data and data products. The interdisciplinary nature of the IGS is evident in its current pilot projects and working groups: IGS Reference Frame Working Group, IGS/BIPM Precise Time Transfer Project, Ionosphere Working Group, Troposphere Working Group, International GLONASS Experiment, and Working Group on Low-Earth Orbiter Missions. Across these applications, increasing importance is being placed on improving the timeliness of availability of IGS data and products. In particular, support to several upcoming low-earth orbiter missions is driving improvements in all components of the IGS, from the global GPS stations themselves to product generation and distribution, to meet the need for new subdaily products. Future directions of the IGS, such as this shift towards rapidity as well as reliability, will be presented.